

Vision Caucus, I realize that we will not achieve all of these objectives overnight. But I know supporting the work of vision rehabilitation practitioners and providers like the Cleveland Sight Center is the right thing to do. And I am confident that we will succeed.

#### NEGRO LEAGUES BASEBALL MUSEUM'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, MO.

This Friday's Legacy Awards, honoring Major League Baseball's brightest stars, kicks off what promises to be a season's worth of events marking the 90th year of the establishment of the Negro Leagues, and the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. As a Missourian, I am proud that Kansas City is home to what is not only a local jewel but a National treasure which honors the Negro Leagues, its legendary players, and its place in the American civil rights movement.

In 1920, Andrew "Rube" Foster established the Negro Leagues at the Paseo YMCA in Kansas City. The Leagues flourished from 1920 through well into the 1950s. Once forward-thinking baseball executives signed such standout African-American players as Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella, interest in the Negro Leagues began to wane. By 1960, as the civil rights movement gained momentum and the best players found their rightful place in the Major Leagues, the Negro Leagues finally folded.

In its heyday, the Negro Leagues was a firmly entrenched and beloved part of African-American culture in Kansas City and throughout the upper Midwest, Northeast, and Southern regions of the United States. The museum's Bob Kendrick tells us that many ministers would start church services early on Sundays when the Kansas City Monarchs had a home game on the calendar. Men, women, and children would leave right after church just in time to get to the ballpark, dressed in their Sunday finest, to watch the game. It was the highest level of competition, and players like "Cool Papa" Bell, "Satchel" Paige, and Josh Gibson always made the game exciting.

Kansas City's beloved Buck O'Neil, a former Negro Leagues player, Monarchs' manager and Major League Baseball's first African-American coach, helped establish the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in 1990. Back then it was a tiny one-room office in the historic 18th & Vine District in Kansas City. Its mission—the same as it is today—was to preserve and celebrate the history of African-American baseball.

As chairman of the board, Buck O'Neil and his crew took the job seriously, working hard to raise money, acquire what curator Dr. Raymond Doswell has turned into an amazing

collection of original memorabilia, and bring worldwide attention to the museum. By 1997, the museum was robust enough to move into its current 10,000 square foot home at 18th & Vine, where today the story of the Negro Leagues comes to life through its exhibits.

Over time, the museum has had the privilege of welcoming visitors from around the world, and such dignitaries as U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. The museum's National Advisory Board is flush with prominent individuals from the worlds of sports, politics, and the media, all of whom have come to recognize the important role the Museum plays in telling the story of civil rights, sports, and culture in 20th century America. George Will, Ernie Banks, Colin Powell, Lou Brock, former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson, and noted documentary producer Ken Burns are all members of this amazing group of supporters.

In many ways this museum is Buck O'Neil's legacy. Buck, 94 years young at the time of his death in 2006, left a permanent inspirational mark on the game of baseball and all who were fortunate enough to have crossed his trailblazing path. Kansas City—and America—are fortunate to call him our own.

On this the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, I ask that we pause for a moment to pay tribute not only to Buck O'Neil, but to the many unsung African-American baseball heroes who helped the Negro Leagues flourish until the better instincts of baseball executives ultimately made the need for such a league obsolete. This remarkable chapter of American history will be preserved forever thanks to the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in recognizing the 20th anniversary of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, a truly American treasure.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2949. An act to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for increased fiscal year 2010 payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, to provide necessary funding to avoid shortfalls in the Medicare cost-sharing program for low-income qualifying individuals, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4430. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Administrative Regulations; Subpart X—Interpretations of Statutory and Regulatory Provisions" (7 CFR Part 400) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4431. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Daily Economic Loss Assistance Payment Program" (RIN0560-A107) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4432. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, an Executive Order issued on January 16, 2010 relative to the augmentation of the active Armed Forces for the effective conduct of operational missions, including those involving humanitarian assistance, related to relief efforts in Haiti necessitated by the earthquake on January 12, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4433. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Home Mortgage Disclosure" (Docket No. 1379) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 23, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4434. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Custody of Funds or Securities of Clients by Investment Advisers" (RIN3235-AK32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4435. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Rule Regarding Principal Trades with Certain Advisory Clients" (RIN3235-AJ96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4436. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12947 with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.